



Simpler data catalogs for Inspire

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The problem

- More and more public geographic datasets are published using open data platforms when they should use an Inspire platform
- Explained by a lack of knowledge of Inspire obligations by some public authorities, but also by the complexity of the current technical framework.
- In France, beyond traditional applications such as spatial data portals, the Inspire data catalogs are not sufficiently used by pro. or consumer apps.
- Thus, when an authority makes the effort to publish its data in this infrastructure, they are insufficiently valued.
- Again, the complexity of the technical framework, especially for Web developers that are not GIS-experts, slow down the development of applications using the infrastructure.
- Therefore, in practice, Inspire competes with the Open Data as the objectives of both actions are close and should be more complementary than competitive.

The idea

- Making this statement, this reflection, called **MigCat**, is to provide a data publishing technical framework that
 - simplifies publishing datasets for public authorities, a priori, not familiar with the current technical framework of Inspire and
 - facilitates the use of the infrastructure by Web programmers that are not GIS-experts
- The 4 fundamental ideas in MigCat are:
 - simplify the mechanisms of data publication and discovery,
 - rely on the web standards rather than on GIS standards where relevant,
 - encode a number of MD elements (keyword from a controlled vocabulary, Specification, Conditions applying to access and use, Limitations on public access) using the URI mechanism
 - while complying with the legal requirements of Inspire.

MigCat = a method

- MigCat is a data catalogs management method based on the requirements of the Inspire directive that defines :
 - a metadata exchange format implementing the Inspire Metadata regulation in Dublin Core+ + JSON -> example:
<http://uri.migcat.fr/demo/Dataset/57b826cd1312d6.14418563>
 - a new protocol of discovery services implementing the Inspire Network Services regulation using the Atom format, the OpenSearch technology and a very simple query language. Ex:
<http://uri.migcat.fr/demo/Dataset?format=atom>
 - the widest possible use of URI that are resolved as HTTP URL
 - a simple way after having identified a dataset to view or download it
<http://uri.migcat.fr/extern/Dataset/0220974400cea951d342628347a9cf39/wms>

MigCat = <http://migcat.fr/>

- MigCat is also a “quick and dirty” ongoing prototype to illustrate the method that allows:
 - to manage a local data catalog (creating, deleting, modifying metadata files),
 - to define in a registry the lists of codes used to manage metadata,
 - to import existing data catalogs,
 - to query catalogs through discovery services,
 - to view & download the datasets through view / download services.

The prototype



<http://migcat.fr/demo-en/>

Conclusion

- This method can be used in 2 ways :
 - To build new simpler catalogs, particularly for non-GIS users
 - To expose existing CSW catalogs to web programmers
- It would be nice to standardize the method
- Are there other initiatives ?